The Gfebs Times

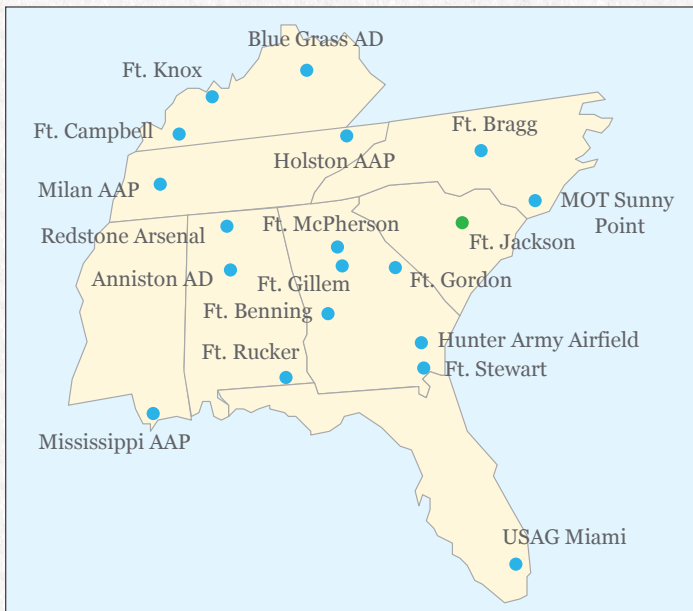### The latest on the Army's new financial ERP

GFEBS ★

R1.3 & R1.4 Deployment Strategy Approved

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — Executive Steering Committee (ESC) members approved the GFEBS Deployment Strategy at the quarterly meeting held on March 19, 2008. The high-level strategy, a hybrid approach for Release 1.3 and 1.4, combines regional, geographical, and command-specific (when feasible) installations, their tenant organizations, and their higher headquarters and operating agencies, along with the Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS).

The deployment strategy lays out the plan for fielding GFEBS through Fiscal Year (FY) 2011. The GFEBS Project will begin deployment of Release 1.3 in second quarter FY09 to the Installation Management Command Southeast (IMCOM-SE) region of the United States for the Active Army organizations operating the Standard Finance System (STANFINS).

Beginning in FY10, GFEBS will deploy simultaneously in the Northeast and West regions to organizations operating both STANFINS and the Standard Operation and Maintenance Army Research and Development System (SOMARDS), as well as the SOMARDS sites that were not fielded during FY09. The plan is to complete all Active and Reserve Components within the continental United States by close of FY10, and then shift focus to IMCOM Pacific, IMCOM Korea, and IMCOM Europe during FY11.

The phased deployment approach allows GFEBS to avoid the fourth quarter go-live events, to go to a site only once when possible, and to utilize the command-based deployment approach on an exception basis only. Regions will be fielded in waves. Each wave will consist of three teams, with the capability of fielding at up to five locations simultaneously, allowing for a maximum of 15 concurrent deployment efforts at different sites within a region.

The GFEBS Deployment Team has met with FORSCOM, TRADOC, MEDCOM, and has AMC next on the calendar to socialize the deployment strategy, resolve scheduling conflicts, and define the policies, practices, and business rules that are essential for success across the Army.

GFEBS Release 1.3 Wave One proposed sites for Deployment.

Wave One deployment will begin during the second quarter of FY09 in the Southeast Region of the United States. GFEBS will be deployed to the rest of the continental United States before deploying globally in FY11.

GFEBS Plans to Train Thousands

From Conceptual Learning to Hands-on

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — GFEBS will impact approximately 79,000 users and subsume 90 systems by the time it deploys to the entire Army. An effective and robust training program is critical to the successful deployment of GFEBS across such a broad population of users.

GFEBS has a comprehensive training plan in place to ensure that users are fully ready for GFEBS deployment. GFEBS will provide a multi-level, role-based training program. Training will begin approximately three months prior to the deployment of GFEBS at an installation. GFEBS Release 1.2 training, which includes Ft. Jackson, will kick off in Summer 2008.

GFEBS will work closely with installation leadership to develop a training schedule that supports the installation's site-specific schedules and fits within the GFEBS project timeline. After training is conducted and the system is fielded, GFEBS will continue to work with each installation by providing reinforcement training, on-site support, on-line help procedures, and updates to all training products.

The GFEBS training approach is comprised of four sequential building blocks that progress from conceptual learning to

Testing Moves GFEBS Forward

KINGSTOWNE, Va. — Over the last 2 months, more than sixty members of the GFEBS team have conducted rigorous testing of the GFEBS application to ensure that when fielded to the Army, the system will fulfill every requirement on its first day of operation.

The GFEBS test efforts is comprised of a series of three distinct testing events: product test, user test, and a Federal Financial Management Improvement Act (FFMIA) test.

The GFEBS team began the product test in March, and will complete a series

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On the Road with GFEBS

Representatives from GFEBS will be attending several roadshows and conferences to provide overview briefings of the program and offer technology demonstrations:

13 May	ASA (ALT) Congressional Event, Capitol Hill, DC	**27-30 May**	ASMC PDI, Orlando, FL	**1 June-31 July**	GFEBS R1.2 Pilot Training & User Test, Ft. Jackson, SC

GFEBS
on the
ROAD

The spring season is a time for new activity and growth, and GFEBS has embraced spring fever as it kicks off Release 1.3 deployment activities and hits the road to spread the word about GFEBS.

In March the GFEBS Project provided a roadshow to the Ft Leonard Wood American Society of Military Comptrollers (ASMC). During the roadshow, the GFEBS PMO and Deployment Demo teams gave an overview and a live demonstration of the system to financial professionals at the installation. Audience members said the event "opened [their] eyes to the need for a new financial management system and the benefits GFEBS will have for the Army."

GFEBS also traveled to Syracuse, NY to provide their overview and demonstration to the ASMC undergraduate class. GFEBS presentations to the ASMC, which occur several times a year, prepare military comptrollers for the changing financial environment they can expect in the years to come.

In April, GFEBS traveled to several conferences to spread awareness of the program. At the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) - Columbus Defense Industry Leadership (DIL) workshop on April 8, the GFEBS team explained to industry leaders how GFEBS will improve the payment processing system for DFAS and its vendors through real-time financial data, automated funds availability checks, improved internal controls, and links from commitment to disbursement using one system.

GFEBS also featured booths at the AUSA Installation Symposium & Exhibition in Kansas City, KS; the AFCEA Industry Days Conference in Oxon Hill, MD; and the National Guard Professional Development (PDI) Conference in Orlando, FL. Members of the GFEBS Project were available throughout the event to familiarize Army personnel with GFEBS, answer questions about the ERP system, and provide demonstrations of several of its key functionalities.

At the National Guard PDI in Orlando, COL Patricia O'Connell of the Army National Guard provided two workshops on GFEBS and its impacts to the current financial management roles within the National Guard. GFEBS personnel also conducted two additional workshops later in the week, detailing the GFEBS training and deployment plans for the Guard and demonstrating the reimbursables and cost management business processes.

During the same week, COL O'Connell and GFEBS functional personnel traveled to Puerto Rico to the ARNG United States Property & Fiscal Office (USPFO) Conference to brief the top personnel from each USPFO about GFEBS and how it will improve financial activities for the Guard on April 24.

Spring has proved to be a busy and exciting time for GFEBS. As GFEBS approaches deployment to the Southeast Region of the United States and then onto the rest of the world, the program plans to continue to spreading awareness through conferences, roadshows, and briefings.

Testing through July

of three "passes" of product test by the end of June. During the first pass, the testers ensured that the system was properly configured. The team completed this first pass, filing, examining, and fixing System Investigation Requests (SIR), also known as defects or bugs.

The second pass of product test will focus on the overall GFEBS application, ensuring that all reports, interfaces, conversions and other aspects of the application function properly. This phase also introduces and tests GFEBS application security, where testers validate that individuals who lack access rights to certain portions of GFEBS cannot circumvent the security measures put in place.

The third and final pass of product test examines GFEBS in a variety of business environments, and tests the system's ability to complete everyday business functions. For example, one scenario tracks how a command will use GFEBS to make rental payments on a building it will lease for a year, while the command constructs a new facility. Another scenario explores how GFEBS would handle a request for travel by 2 civilian employees using Army funds. Each scenario shows how GFEBS will work when faced with real-world challenges.

With the completion of the product test in June, the second test event, user test, will run through the month of July. During user test, the GFEBS Project will select 30 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who have undergone pilot training to perform a subset of the business scenarios used during the last phase of product test. During this test, the Army Test Execution Command (ATEC) and the Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC) will collect data, as the presence of the SMEs will help simulate the operational environment for go-live. User test will also encompass the support resources GFEBS will put in place, such as a simulated HelpDesk, "super users," and job aids.

The FFMIA test, which ensures that GFEBS is compliant with the FFMIA requirements, will be conducted in parallel with user test. Results of the FFMIA test are passed on to the Army Audit Agency.

The completion of this three-pronged, comprehensive testing period will allow GFEBS to confidently move forward with its deployment to all Release 1.2 organizations.

Training thousands

actual hands-on training. The instructional experience flows from general overview to increasing detail and specialization into specific role-based training processes. This multi-level training program is achieved through a blended learning approach that includes different instructional and delivery strategies, such as computer-based training, instructor-led training, and job-aids.

The first course in the GFEBS curriculum is a GFEBS overview, which will introduce end users to GFEBS and its capabilities. The second set of courses explains the GFEBS business processes, including an integrated overall business process overview and an additional focus on specific process areas. The third set of courses will introduce end users to basic SAP terminology and system navigation techniques. The final set of courses are truly specialized, and provide the user with detailed role-based training that integrates the business process with the role the user will perform on a daily basis.

The GFEBS Project will provide a cost-effective, just-in-time training solution that will be flexible, modular, and scalable and will be adaptable for both peacetime and wartime delivery.

More Information:

For more about GFEBS and the latest news, visit the program's website at www.gfebs.army.mil.

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